

*Stated Meeting, February 21.*

Present, thirty-one members.

Dr. BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were received and read:—

From the Institute of France, dated Paris, 14th November, 1844, and the Royal Academy of Sciences of Turin, respectively acknowledging the receipt of the Transactions and Proceedings of this Society:—

From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Brussels, dated 11th October, 1844, acknowledging the receipt of the Transactions and Proceedings of this Society, and transmitting certain works:—

From a Committee of the Law Academy, dated Philadelphia, 19th February, 1845, asking permission of the Society to have a copy made of the portrait of the late President, Mr. Du Ponceau, belonging to this Society:—

From Bishop Hughes, dated New York, February 8, 1845, on forwarding a package of books to the Society,—and

From Richard Seldiner, Vice Consul of Sweden and Norway, dated Philadelphia, 21st February, 1845, on transmitting a package of books for the Society, from M. Berzelius of Stockholm.

The request contained in the letter from the Committee of the Law Academy was granted.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Nouveaux Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de Bruxelles. Tome VIII. Bruxelles, 1834. 4to.—

*From the Royal Academy of Sciences.*

Mémoires Couronnés, et Mémoires des Savants Etrangers, publiés par l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de Bruxelles. Tome XVI, 1843. Bruxelles, 1844. 4to.—*From the same.*

Annuaire de l'Académie Royale des Sciences, etc. de Bruxelles.

Dixième Année, 1844. 18mo.—*From the same.*

Bulletins de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de

- Bruxelles. Tome VII. 1re Partie, No. 3 to 6, inclusive. Tome VII. 2me Partie, Nos. 7 and 8. Tome X. 2me Partie, No. 8 to 12, inclusive. Tome XI. 1re Partie, No. 1 to 6, inclusive. Tome XI. 2me Partie, Nos. 7 and 8. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Annales de l'Observatoire Royal de Bruxelles, publiées aux frais de l'Etat, par le Directeur, A. Quetelet, Secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles-Lettres, etc. etc. etc. Tome III. Bruxelles, 1844. 4to.—*From the Director of the Observatory.*
- Recherches Statistiques, par A. Quetelet, Président de la Commission Centrale de Statistique de Belgique, etc. etc. Bruxelles, 1844. 4to.—*From the Author.*
- Annuaire de l'Observatoire Royal de Bruxelles, par A. Quetelet, Directeur de cet Établissement. 11me Année, 1844. Bruxelles, 1843. 18mo.—*From the Director, A. Quetelet.*
- Kongl. Vetenskaps-Academiens Handlingar, för år 1842. Stockholm, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm.*
- Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar. Årg 1, 1844. Nos. 1 to 7, inclusive. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Års-Berättelse om Botaniska Arbeten och Upptäckter för år, 1838. Till Kongl. Vetenskaps-Academien afgifven den 31 Mars, 1839. Af Joh. Em. Wikström. Stockholm, 1842. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Års-Berättelse om Framstegen i Kemi och Mineralogi afgifven den 31 Mars 1844; af Jac. Berzelius, K. V. Acad. Secret. Stockholm, 1844. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Års-Berättelse om Zoologiens Framsteg under åren 1840-42. Till Kongl. Vetenskaps-Academien afgifven af Zoologiæ. Intendenterna vid Rikets naturhistoriska Museum. Tredje Delen. (Crustacea-Vermes,) af S. Lovén. Stockholm, 1844. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Tal af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Præses Herr Hans Järta, hållet den 31 Mars 1839, på hundrado års-dagen efter Akademiens instiftelse. Stockholm, 1843. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Tal af Akademiens Præses Herr Friherre C. G. Von Brinkman, den 31 Mars 1843. Stockholm, 1843. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Die Theogonie, Philosophie und Kosmogonie der Hindus, von dem grafen M. Björnstjerna. Aus dem Schwedischen übersetzt und mit Anmerkungen begleitet von J. R. Stockholm, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

- Jahrbücher der Literatur. January to December, 1843. Nos. 101 to 104, inclusive. Vienna. 8vo.—*From Baron Von Hammer Purgstall.*
- Geschichte der Ilchane das ist der Mongolen in Persien. Von Hammer Purgstall. Zweiter Band. Darmstadt, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Handbuch der Gesetze über ausschließende Privilegien auf neue Erfindungen, Entdeckungen und Verbesserungen. Von Dr. Anton Schuller. Wien, 1841. 8vo.—*From Baron Von Hammer Purgstall.*
- M. Tudós Társasági Névkönyv, Astronomiai Naplóval és Kalendáriummal 1843-ra. Budén. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania. Third Series, Vol. IX. February, 1845. No. 2. 8vo.—*From Dr. R. M. Patterson.*
- The Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine. Edited by John Forbes, M.D. F.R.S., Alexander Tweedie, M.D., and John Conolly, M.D. Revised, with additions, by Robley Dunglison, M.D. Parts 1 to 24, inclusive. Philadelphia, 1844-45. 8vo.—*From Dr. Dunglison.*
- Memorial soliciting a State Hospital for the Insane, submitted to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, February 3, 1845. Harrisburg, 1845. 8vo.—*From C. B. Trego, Esq.*
- The Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of New York, with Suggestions for its Improvement. A Discourse (with Additions) delivered on the 30th December, 1844, at the Repository of the American Institute. By John H. Griscom, M.D. New York, 1845. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

Astronomische Nachrichten, Nos. 523, 524, 525. 4to.

Dr. Patterson exhibited to the Society a counterfeit sovereign, bearing the head of George IV., and dated 1824, which was so perfect an imitation of the genuine coin, as to elude detection by any of the sensible or mechanical tests in common use, singly or combined.

The spurious piece is of the full legal weight of the sovereign,—123.3 grains. It is of the true dimensions, except a scarcely perceptible increase in thickness. It has the true colour, not only at the

surface, but in the interior, when cut. Its mechanical execution is such as to present no fault to an ordinary observer, even with the aid of a glass.

The only process, short of actual assay, by which it can be detected, is a trial of its specific gravity. A genuine sovereign of the same colour, would show a specific gravity of about 17.70; the piece in question gives but 16.22.

On assay it was shown to be composed as follows:—

Gold,	803	thousandths,
Silver,	122	,,
Copper,	75	,,
	1000	

Such an alloy should show the specific gravity above, or very nearly, according to the printed tables prepared at the Mint, by the Assayers, Messrs. Eckfeldt and Du Bois.

The value of the piece is \$4.26; that of the sovereign of full weight \$4.86; making a profit on each piece of 60 cents, or about 14 per cent. Counterfeiters are rarely contented with so small a gain, and their fraud is therefore more easily detected. In the present case, the smallness of the profit in the individual piece, gives reason to apprehend that the roguery is to be made available by a grand operation, and that many such counterfeits may be already abroad.

Dr. Dunglison announced that the Secretaries had appointed him as Corresponding Secretary, and Prof. Frazer as Reporter, for the present year.

Dr. Patterson, on the part of the Committee appointed at the last stated meeting, to meet a Committee of the Athenæum, made a report, and offered the following resolution.

*Resolved*, That the proposal from the Athenæum, for the erection on the lot now occupied by the Society's hall, of a new building for the accommodation of the two Institutions, is deemed by the Society to be inexpedient, and that it be therefore respectfully declined.

The resolution was adopted, and the Committee was discharged.